

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A digital preservation system (10) for accepting a digital data record as input, for writing the data record in human-readable form onto a preservation-quality medium (210), for storage of the medium (210), and for retrieval of the data record from the medium (210). The system (10) is modular, allowing scaling of the system (10), allowing preferential selection of specific image handling components, and allowing replacement of complete subsystems while minimizing the likelihood of data loss. The digital preservation system (10) preserves a data record in human-readable form, along with an associated metadata record, allowing the human-readable preserved data record to be readable in the distant future, independent of specific reading hardware.

the first time in the history of the world, the *whole* of the human race, in all its parts, has been gathered together, and is now to be seen in one place.